

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 13243 141621Z
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ERDA-05 ERDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 FEAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ISO-00 /096 W
----- 124522 /44

O R 141548Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8292
INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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DEPARTMENT PASS ERDA AND NRC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, GR
SUBJECT: SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL FOR GREECE'S RESEARCH REACTOR

REF: STATE 301477

1. AS REQUESTED REFTTEL, WE ASKED CHRYSOCHOIDES, DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRITUS NUCLEAR RESEARCH CENTER, ON AN INFORMAL BASIS WHETHER THE IMMEDIATE NEED FOR REPLACEMENT FUEL CAN BE MET ON A TIMELY BASIS BY USE OF URANIUM ENRICHED TO 20 PERCENT OR LESS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT AVAILABILITY OF FABRICATION SERVICES FOR 20 PERCENT ENRICHED FUEL ELEMENTS. HE REPLIED NO, IT CANNOT. THE DEMOCRITUS REACTOR WAS ORIGINALLY OPERATING WITH ONE MEGAWATT AND USED 19.8 PERCENT ENRICHED FUEL. HOWEVER, IN 1971 MODIFICATIONS WERE MADE FOR THE REACTOR TO OPERATE ON FIVE MEGAWATTS, WHICH REQUIRES THE USE OF 93 PERCENT ENRICHED URANIUM. IF THE REACTOR WERE TO OPERATE ON ONE MEGAWATT NOW, IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO CARRY OUT DEMOCRITUS' PROGRAMS, WHICH INCLUDE SUPPLYING RADIOISOTOPES TO MORE THAN TWENTY HOSPITALS AND EXPERIMENTS ON RADIATION DAMAGE, AMONG OTHERS. REGARDING FABRICATION, DEMOCRITUS HAS ALREADY SELECTED A FACTORY AND PLACED AN ORDER FOR THE 93 PERCENT ENRICHED FUEL ELEMENTS. THE FACTORY IS WAITING FOR THE URANIUM. CHRYSOCHOIDES WAS UNAWARE OF

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 13243 141621Z

THE MARKET SITUATION FOR 20 PERCENT OR LESS ENRICHMENT.

2. IF ERDA AND NRC REQUIRE A MORE FORMAL REPLY EMBASSY
WILL EXCHANGE LETTERS WITH THE GREEK NATIONAL ENERGY
COUNCIL. PLEASE ADVISE.

3. GREEKS UNDERSTAND THE REQUIREMENTS LISTED IN PARA-
GRAPH 6, REFTEL, AND SEE NO DIFFICULTIES THEREIN.
CHRYSOCHOIDES EMPHASIZED THAT MORE IMPORTANT THAN RECEIPT
OF THE \$50,000 GIFT WAS RECEIPT OF THE MATERIAL IN
TIME, SO THAT DEMOCRITUS' PROGRAMS NOT RPT NOT BE
INTERRUPTED.
KUBISCH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: URANIUM, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS, NUCLEAR FUELS, NUCLEAR REACTORS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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